

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

A ROUND-UP OF ECONOMIC, EMPLOYMENT AND BUSINESS LEGISLATION FROM MARYLAND'S 2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

During the 2015 Maryland General Assembly Session, business climate issues were again in the spotlight. Governor Larry Hogan's message that Maryland is Open for Business was loud and clear. His priorities—creating jobs and reinvigorating Maryland's economy—were front and center.

In addition, the Maryland Economic Development and Business Climate Commission (Commission), released a report ultimately finding that "Maryland has not nearly reached its potential in growing business and creating jobs", and outlining 32 recommendations aimed to improve Maryland's business climate. Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development (Department) Secretary Mike Gill stated many times this report is a "blueprint for prosperity and a game-changer for Maryland". Five pieces of legislation sponsored by Senate President Miller and House Speaker Busch were introduced to implement key recommendations, and address concerns frequently raised by the business community – Maryland's regulatory environment and the need to improve customer service at State agencies.

The Commission was created during the 2014 Maryland General Assembly Session and comprised of 21 members with a broad spectrum of backgrounds. They held eight public meetings across the State and heard testimony from over 100 witnesses from the business, labor, government, academic, and related communities. The Commission believes "the potential to enhance economic development, business growth, and job creation in Maryland is immense; however, the challenges are also significant, particularly in view of the State's current budgetary environment". To review the entire report, please [click here](#).

House Bill 939 Proposed Regulations – Determination of Impact on Small Businesses

Creates the Advisory Council on the Impact of Regulations on Small Businesses in the Department. The Council will review certain proposed regulations to determine if they pose a significant small business impact; provide an estimated range of costs for small businesses affected by the proposed regulation; and if the proposed regulation poses such an impact, identify whether it is necessary to comply with federal law. If the Council finds that a proposed regulation poses a significant small business impact, the Council shall submit a written statement of its findings to the Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review (AELR) and the Department of Legislative Services. A member of AELR may request a hearing on the regulation and may request that the promulgating unit delay adoption of the regulation. Effective October 1, 2015.

House Bill 940 Office of the Business Ombudsman – State Customer Service and Business Development Efforts Training Program

Creates the State Customer Service and Business Development Efforts Program in the Governor's Office of the Business

Ombudsman, to increase the responsiveness of and improve customer service provided by State agencies to businesses and customers in the State. Participating entities include the Departments of: Business and Economic Development, Assessments and Taxation, Environment, and Labor; Licensing, and Regulation; as well as the State Highway Administration. These entities must create a customer service improvement plan which incorporates customer service standards set by the Business Ombudsman; develop and conduct customer service training for employees that interact with businesses and members of the public; adopt and distribute a standard customer service satisfaction survey for each person the agency serves; establish an incentive or recognition program for employees who provide excellent customer service; and provide an annual report. Effective October 1, 2015.

House Bill 943 Economic Competitiveness and Commerce – Restructuring

Restructures economic development in Maryland to elevate economic development priorities, streamline the State's economic development tool box, better influence business location decisions, and rebrand Maryland's primary economic development entity to enhance Maryland's business competitiveness.

- Creates a Secretary of Commerce in the Governor's Office.
 - The Secretary:
 - Is the head of economic development policy and implementation efforts in the State.
 - Is the head of and responsible for the operations of the Department of Economic Competitiveness and Commerce (DECC).
 - Monitors the operations of the Maryland Economic Development Corporation (MEDCO), Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO) and the Maryland Public-Private Partnership Marketing Corporation (Marketing Corporation).
 - The Secretary shall
 - Consult with and advise secretaries of other principal departments on coordination of the activities of the departments that relate to economic development policy and implementation efforts in the State.
 - Establish guidelines and procedures to promote the orderly and efficient operation of the Department of Economic Competitiveness and Commerce (DECC).
 - Monitor the activities of and coordinate policy for MEDCO, TEDCO, and the Marketing Corporation.
 - Establish regional offices in local jurisdictions (within DECC) to advise the Secretary on whether the economic development needs of local jurisdictions are being met and coordinate with municipal and local economic development agencies.

- Renames the principle State economic development entity "Department of Business and Economic Development" the "DECC".
 - Creates an Executive Director to manage DECC, and advise and carry out the policies of the Secretary.
 - Enhances the Agency's responsibilities to include: establish and monitor performance measures to determine the success of outreach efforts to businesses; facilitate regular meetings among its regional experts, financial incentive team, and tourism development team to determine the success in meeting overall economic development strategic goals and in addressing the economic development needs of each region; and work with community colleges to enhance the role of community colleges in providing workforce training services, including industry-specific education and training in response to the needs of the State.
- Elevates and enhances the responsibilities of the Maryland Economic Development Commission (MEDC).
 - Advise the Secretary on economic development policy in the State.
 - Oversee the operations of DECC and its units; and monitor the operations of TEDCO, MEDCO, and the Marketing Corporation.
 - Conduct periodic reviews of the economic development activities of DECC, TEDCO, MEDCO, and the Marketing Corporation for compliance with the economic development strategic plan.
 - Make recommendations to the Governor and the Secretary to improve economic development activities that fail to achieve economic development strategic goals or are inconsistent with priorities under the economic development strategic plans.
 - Review DECC's budget request.
- Moves the Department's BioMaryland Center, Maryland Venture Fund and Maryland Venture Fund Authority to TEDCO.
- Provides that TEDCO's responsibilities include to generally assist early-stage start-up businesses in the State.
- Creates a Marketing Corporation to be managed by an Executive Director:
 - Its purpose is to:
 - Create a branding strategy for the State
 - Market the State's assets to out-of-state businesses
 - Recruit out-of-state businesses to locate and grow in the State; and
 - Foster public-private partnerships that encourage location and development of new businesses in the State.
 - Establishes an eighteen member Board to manage the Marketing Corporation
- Creates an Economic Development Marketing Fund to be administered by the Marketing Corporation to be used to market the State as a location for businesses to locate, retain, or expand their operations.
- Creates a Commerce Subcabinet comprised of the Secretary or their designee from the following agencies: Commerce, Transportation, Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, Environment, Housing and Community Development, Planning, Minority Affairs.

Responsibilities include:

- Advise the Governor on proposals to enhance the State's business climate;
- Gather information the subcabinet considers necessary to promote the goals of the subcabinet;
- Collaborate to facilitate and expedite critical economic development projects in the State; and
- Provide other assistance that may be required to further the goals of the subcabinet and enhance the State's business climate.

Effective October 1, 2015.

House Bill 941 Task Force to Study Exemptions from Higher Education Ethics Requirements and Procurement Rules to Facilitate Technology Transfer

Establishes a Task Force to Study Exemptions from Higher Education Ethics Requirements and Procurement Rules to Facilitate Technology Transfer. The Task Force is comprised of representatives from the Maryland General Assembly, the State's economic development agencies, higher education community, technology incubators, and the State Ethics Commission. The University System of Maryland will staff the Task Force. The Task Force will study and make recommendations to relax State ethics and procurement rules, as they pertain to technology transfer, in order to better facilitate the commercialization of intellectual property at Maryland's universities. A report is due to the Governor and Maryland General Assembly by December 1, 2015. Effective June 1, 2015.

House Bill 942 Apprenticeship Pilot Program – Apprenticeship Maryland

Creates a pilot program, Apprenticeship Maryland, to prepare students to enter the workforce by providing some of the necessary on-site employment training and related classroom instruction needed to obtain a license or certification for a skilled occupation. Requires the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (DLLR), and the Public School Superintendents Association of Maryland to develop criteria for selecting two local school systems to participate. To the extent practicable, MSDE should provide for the selection of one urban and one rural school system to participate. MSDE, DLLR, the Department, and representatives from the business community to develop criteria for and identify eligible employers. Students that complete the requirements of the Program will be issued a skills certificate. Effective July 1, 2015.

Administration

House Bill 487 Maryland Education Credit

Encourages business to invest in education. Provides a tax credit up to 60% for business donations to student assistance organizations that support Maryland's public and non-public schools. The tax credit will be funded through the Maryland Education Tax Credit Reserve Fund, and administered by the Department. Failed.

Senate Bill 590/House Bill 480 Small Business Personal Property Tax Relief Act of 2015

As introduced, exempts a business with personal property valued at less than \$10,000 from personal property tax, filing a specified tax report, and the filing fee associated with the annual report. For each

exemption, the State must remit to each county or municipality a specified amount that would have been collected if the business had not been determined exempt. Failed.

Departmental

Senate Bill 896 Military Personnel and Veteran-Owned Small Business No-Interest Loan Program and Fund

Converts the Military Personnel and Veteran-Owned Small Business No-Interest Loan Program to a special, non-lapsing revolving fund that is not subject to reversion, and prioritizes how funds will be distributed should funds not be sufficient to cover the applications received. This Program supports small business employers of military reservists and National Guard personnel who are called to active duty; businesses owned by military reservists and National Guard personnel who are called to active duty; veteran owned small businesses; and businesses employing a service-disabled veteran. Effective July 1, 2015.

Fiscal Year 2016 Budget

The Fiscal Year 2016 budget is very positive for State economic and tourism development programs. Initially, the Department of Legislative Services had proposed \$12.5 M in reductions to the Departmental Allowance of \$143.7 M. Due to the effective lobbying efforts of Department staff and partner organizations; legislative reductions were reduced to \$500,000.

The current estimate of the preliminary legislative appropriation for Fiscal Year 2016 is \$141.2 M. This figure includes the 2 % Fiscal Year 2016 Cost Containment reduction.

Fiscal Year 2016 funding for key programs:

Enterprise Investment and Challenge Fund: \$15.1M

MEDAAF: \$20M

Biotechnology Tax Credit: \$12M

Maryland Tourism Board: \$8.7M

Cyber Tax Credit: \$1.5M

Small, Minority, Women-Owned Business: \$10.6M

E-Innovation: \$8.5M

MSBDFA: \$6.25M

Film Production Activity Tax Credit \$7.5M

Research & Development Tax Credit: \$9M

State Arts Council: \$18.49M

In addition, the National Cyber Security Center for Excellence (NCCoE) in Montgomery County received second year funding of \$2M in G.O. Bonds in the Maryland Capital Budget.

Taxes and Fees

Senate Bill 73/House Bill 221 Commission on Tax Policy, Reform, and Fairness

Creates a Commission on Tax Policy, Reform, and Fairness to study the State's revenue structure including various taxes, and to make recommendations to revise the structure in a way that promotes economic development and encourages job growth. The Commission is comprised of sixteen members including, among others, representatives from the General Assembly, State agencies, universities, and the Maryland Chamber of Commerce. Failed.

Senate Bill 179/House Bill 663 Business Relief and Tax Fairness Act of 2015

Exempts small businesses of 10 employees or less from paying an annual \$300 filing fee. Requires companies that are affiliates of a "unitary group" to file a combined income tax return reflecting the collective income tax liability of the entire group. Failed.

Senate Bill 190 Sales and Use Tax – Taxable Price – Accommodations

Clarifies that the taxable price, for the sale of an accommodation (i.e. a hotel room) facilitated by an accommodations intermediary (i.e. an on-line travel company) is the full amount of consideration paid by a buyer for the accommodation. Expands the definition of "vendor" to include "accommodations intermediaries" requiring them to collect and remit sales taxes to the Comptroller. Effective July 1, 2015.

Senate Bill 533/House Bill 886 Bay Tax Equity Act

Requires poultry integrators to pay a chicken manure pollution fee of \$0.05 for each chicken they provide to a farmer. Mandates the fee revenue be used to fund cover crop activities on agricultural lands where chicken manure has been used as a fertilizer. Failed.

Senate Bill 670 Corporations and Business Entities – Filing Fees and Combined Reporting

Imposes unitary combined reporting on corporations that engage in retail, sales, and food services businesses. Eliminates certain annual filing fee for businesses or corporations with 10 or fewer employees. Failed.

Senate Bill 863 Watershed Protection and Restoration Programs – Revisions

Repeals a requirement that local jurisdictions must collect a stormwater remediation fee. Authorizes local jurisdictions to collect a such a fee, except Montgomery County. Effective July 1, 2015.

House Joint Resolution 4 Moratorium on Taxes and Regulations

Provides that members of the Maryland General Assembly commit to the residents of the State that there will be a 4-year moratorium on increasing any existing taxes, establishing any new taxes, and mandating any additional regulations. Failed.

House Bill 122 Task Force to Study the Impact of State and Local Taxes on Small Businesses

Establishes a Task Force to Study the Impact of State and Local taxes on Small Businesses. Requires the Task Force to make specific recommendations on State and local taxes to ensure fairness, promote job growth, and encourage small business development. Membership includes representatives from the General Assembly, the State, and the business community. Failed.

House Bill 161 Personal Property Tax – Investments in Maryland

Exempts businesses that organize or relocate to Maryland during the 2015 tax year from the personal property tax. Beginning in Fiscal Year 2018, exempts businesses from paying personal property tax except for certain industries and public utilities. Failed.

House Bill 251 Corporate Income Tax – Rate Reduction

Reduces the corporate income tax rate from 8.25% to 6.0% beginning in tax year 2015. Failed.

House Bill 259 Personal Property Tax – Maximum Rate – Small Business

Requires local governments to set the maximum personal property tax rate at \$1.83 per every \$100 of assessment for personal

property between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2020. Businesses that generate less than \$100,000 in annual revenue and organize or re-locate their headquarters within the State of Maryland will be eligible for the reduced property tax rate. Failed.

House Bill 445 Opportunity Bracket for Small Businesses

Allows the owner of a small business to receive a subtraction modification against 50% of the income generated by their business. Multiple owners may distribute the subtraction modification in any manner agreed upon in writing. The aggregate subtraction claimed by all owners may not exceed \$50,000. Failed.

House Bill 446 Personal Property Tax – Exemption – Small Business

Provides a personal property tax exemption for businesses with less than \$100,000 in revenue and is purchased on or after July 1, 2015. Failed.

House Bill 964 Sales and Use Tax – Snack Food – Application

Repeals the current sales and use tax exemption for specified snack foods. Failed.

Business Incentives

Senate Bill 196/House Bill 1089 Economic Development – Rural Economic Development Program and One Maryland Tax Credit

Creates a Rural Economic Development Program to encourage businesses to locate or expand in specified rural counties of the State by providing businesses that create at least twenty jobs with a ten-year property tax exemption, income tax subtraction modification, and sales and use tax exemption. Creates an infrastructure fund for specified rural counties to expand infrastructure necessary to encourage businesses to locate and expand in those counties. Phases out the One Maryland Tax Credit Program. Failed.

Senate Bill 351/House Bill 950 Cybersecurity Investment Incentive Tax Credit – Eligible Investment

Expands the definition of “investment” to include convertible debt. Failed.

Senate Bill 365/House Bill 810 One Maryland Economic Development Tax Credit – Business Incubators

Expands the existing One Maryland Tax Credit Program to allow business incubators to aggregate the number of jobs created by businesses in the incubator to meet the statutory twenty-five job requirement and qualify for the Program. Failed.

Senate Bill 488 Income Tax Credit – Qualified Research and Development Expenses – Credit Amounts

Phases in an increase to the Maryland Research and Development Tax Credit from a current total of \$9 million to \$14 million in Calendar Year 2019. Failed.

Senate Bill 507 Maryland Strong Manufacturing Development Act

Establishes the Manufacturing Development Zone Program to encourage business entities engaged in manufacturing outside the State to invest in manufacturing facilities in designated Zones. Businesses that meet certain qualifications would be entitled to property and income tax credits and consideration for financial assistance from DBED. Additionally, the employees of the business are entitled to a subtraction modification. Referred to interim study by Budget and Taxation.

Senate Bill 584/House Bill 789 Income Tax – Angel Investor Tax Credit Program

Creates an Angel Investor Tax Credit Program to encourage investors to invest in innovative Maryland businesses by providing a non-refundable tax credit equal to 50% of the investment to the investor. Intends for the Governor to appropriate \$5 million for each fiscal year. Ten percent of the total fiscal year will be set aside for investments in women-, minority-, and veteran-owned businesses. Failed.

House Bill 820 One Maryland Economic Development Tax Credit – Distressed Municipal Corporations

Expands the existing One Maryland Tax Credit Program to include qualified businesses that locate or expand in a “qualified distressed political subdivision”. Failed.

House Bill 1047 Enterprise Zone Income Tax Credit – Economically Disadvantaged Individuals – Qualified Ex-Felons

Expands the definition of an “economically disadvantaged individual” under the Enterprise Zone (EZ) Tax Credit to include “ex-felons”. Encourages businesses that are located EZs to hire “ex-felons” by allowing them to claim the income tax portion of the Enterprise Zone Tax Credit. Failed.

Legislation Supporting Key Economic Industries

Senate Joint Resolution 6/House Joint Resolution 7 Business and Economic Development – NASA Wallops Flight Facility Commercial Rocket Boosters and Spacecraft

Urges the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to conduct a study on the environmental impact of landing commercial booster rockets and spacecraft at the Wallops Flight Facility. Failed.

Senate Bill 370 Unmanned Aircraft Systems, Research, Development, Regulation, and Privacy Act of 2015

Declares that only the State may take action to prohibit, restrict or regulate the testing or operation of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). Requires the Department, in consultation with interested parties, to: identify economic benefits of and policies pertaining to the UAS industry; determine the impact of any proposed FAA regulations that relate to the regulation of the operation of small UAS; and determine whether it is in the public interest for the State to consider Statewide legislation relating to the regulation of UAS. Effective July 1, 2015.

Senate Bill 542 Maryland Cybersecurity Council – Establishment

Establishes the Maryland Cybersecurity Council and requires the Council to work with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), other federal agencies, private sector businesses and private cybersecurity experts to, among other tasks, assist private sector cybersecurity businesses to adopt, adapt, and implement NIST cybersecurity framework of standards and practices. Effective July 1, 2015.

Senate Bill 581/House Bill 1084 Business and Economic Development – Maryland Design Excellence Commission

Creates the Maryland Design Excellence Commission to develop design policy for the State, foster innovation, accessibility, and sustainability in the design and manufacture of new technologies, and ensure that the built and virtual environments are readily accessible and usable by all Marylanders. Among the Commission’s tasks is the

coordination of an annual "MarylandByDesign Week" to promote public education about design excellence. Failed.

Senate Bill 868 Public Utilities – Transportation Network Services
Creates a separate regulatory framework for Transportation Network Services (TNS) allowing app-based ride-sharing technology companies such as Uber and Lyft to operate in the State of Maryland. The framework includes licensing, criminal history records checks, and insurance requirements, among others. Requires the Public Service Commission to adopt regulations to implement the framework. Allows certain local governments to assess TNS, up to \$.25 per trip. Effective July 1, 2015.

Tourism, Film & the Arts

Senate Bill 455/House Bill 389 Education -Beginning of the School Year – After Labor Day

Implements a recommendation from the Task Force to Study a Post-Labor Day Start Date, to prohibit public schools and publicly funded prekindergarten programs from beginning the school year until the day after Labor Day. Failed.

Senate Bill 812 Anne Arundel County - Alcoholic Beverages – Limited Distillery License

Establishes a Class 9 Limited Distillery license in the State only for holders of a Class D beer, wine, and liquor license in Anne Arundel County for use on the licensed premises. The license authorizes the user to distill no more than 100,000 gallons of brandy, rum, whiskey, alcohol, and neutral spirits under certain conditions. The annual license fee is \$500.00. Failed.

Senate Bill 905 Income Tax – Film Production Activity Tax Credit

Creates the Maryland Film Production Activity Tax Credit Reserve Fund. Requires DBED to submit a report prior to the beginning of each Fiscal Year to the Governor and Maryland General Assembly indicating the amount of tax credits needed to retain and attract productions. Requires the Department to include in the annual Maryland Film Production Activity Tax Credit report: a list of companies doing business in the State that directly provided goods or services for film production activity that are (1) certified as minority business enterprises and (2) considered small businesses. Requires productions receiving the Tax Credit to promote the State by featuring a logo in the production and a link to the State's website on the project's website. In the alternate, a production can propose alternative marketing opportunities to be evaluated by the Department. Effective July 1, 2015.

House Bill 827 Alcoholic Beverage Taxes – Wine Tax Revenue Distribution

Alters the distribution of alcoholic beverages tax revenue so that the revenue generated from the tax on wine produced at wineries licensed in the State must be distributed to the Maryland Wine and Grape Promotion Fund. Effective July 1, 2015.

Procurement

Chapter 3 Procurement – Veteran – Owned Small Business Enterprise Participation – Award of Contracts

Requires that agencies must award contracts with an expected goal for veteran-owned small business participation to a responsible bidder or offeror based on existing requirements in procurement law governing the award of contracts using competitive sealed bids

or proposals in addition to whether they meet or make a good faith effort to meet the applicable goal. Effective October 1, 2015.

Chapter 12 Task Force to Study Small and Minority Design Firm Participation in State Procurement

Establishes the Task Force to Study Small and Minority Design Firm Participation in State Procurement. The Task Force shall determine specific measures to ensure participation by small and minority design firms in State funded projects, and ways to avoid liquidated damages on open-ended design contracts, and submit a report to the Governor and General Assembly by December 31, 2015. Effective June 1, 2015.

Senate Bill 350 Procurement – Veteran-Owned Small Business Enterprises – Participation Goal

Raises the annual contract award goal for Executive Branch agencies under the Veteran Owned Small Business Enterprise Program from 0.5% to 5.0% of the total dollar value of their procurement contracts. Effective October 1, 2015.

Senate Bill 662/House Bill 1213 State Finance and Procurement – One Maryland Blue Ribbon Commission

Establishes the One Maryland Blue Ribbon Commission within the Department to review the advantages and disadvantages for local businesses in regard to the State procurement process, review incentives available to businesses for participation in State contracts, and review geographic partnerships to determine whether State agencies are contracting with businesses located in the State. The Commission should also develop policy recommendations to ensure greater participation of businesses located in the State in the procurement process. Effective July 1, 2015.

House Joint Resolution 6 Buy Maryland

Urges State agencies to procure goods and services from businesses located in-State, especially goods that are manufactured in Maryland. Failed.

Small and/or Minority Owned Business

Senate Bill 579/House Bill 844 Maryland Small Business Development Financing Authority – Small Business Surety Bond Program

Increases the maximum amount for a bond guarantee from \$1,350,000 to \$2,250,000 and for a direct bond from \$1,000,000 to \$2,500,000 under the Maryland Small Business Development Financing Authority. Effective July 1, 2015.

Senate Bill 582/House Bill 909 Pilot Program for Small Business Development by Ex-Offenders

Establishes a pilot program, contingent on funding, for small business development by ex-offenders. Requires the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation in consultation with the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, and the Maryland Small Business Development Financing Authority to provide training to ex-offenders on how to establish a small business and funding. Effective July 1, 2015.

Senate Bill 642/House Bill 155 Video Lottery Terminals – Small, Minority, and Women-Owned Business Account – Use of Proceeds

Alters the distribution of the Small, Minority, and Women-Owned Businesses (SMWOB) account from the proceeds of video lottery terminals (VLTs). For funds allocated to SMWOB surrounding the

VLT in Allegany County, fund managers shall allocate at least fifty percent of the funds to SMWOB located in Allegany County. If an eligible fund manager determines that there is no demand for additional funds from businesses in Allegany county, any remaining funds may be allocated to SMWOB located in areas served by the Tri-County Council for Western Maryland. Failed.

Regulation

Senate Bill 40 Labor and Employment – Maryland Healthy Working Families Act

Senate Bill 40 requires employers, including a unit of State or local government, with 10 or more employees to provide paid sick and safe leave for specified purposes. Employers with 9 or less employees are required to provide unpaid leave. Failed.

Senate Bill 257 Agriculture – Nutrient Management – Phosphorus Management Tool

Establishes criteria for determining phosphorus application rates under a nutrient management plan requirements for agricultural operations. This includes a transition from use of a Phosphorus Site Index to use of Phosphorus Management Tool, in order to determine application rates. Failed.

Senate Bill 854 State Government – Administrative Procedure Act – Effective Date of Adoption

Alters the effective date of nonemergency regulations adopted under the Administrative Procurement Act. Establishes quarterly effective dates according to when the notice of adoption is published in the Maryland Register. Failed.

Miscellaneous

Senate Bill 893 Commission on Free Trade, Currency Manipulation, and State Sovereignty – Establishment

Establishes the Commission on Free Trade, Currency Manipulation, and State Sovereignty (Commission) to assess the economic impact of international trade agreements, work with other states

to development means to resolve conflicting goals between trade agreements and State sovereignty, make recommendations to protect Maryland jobs and businesses from the negative impacts of international trade agreements, and development recommendations regarding the State's response to threats and opportunities presented by international trade agreements. Failed.

House Bill 550 State Aid-Business Transparency and Financial Disclosure Act

Requires certain business entities that receive a State subsidy of at least \$50,000 to submit a disclosure report with the State entity that granted the subsidy. Some of the information to be provided includes a summary of the activity that generates eligibility for the subsidy, number of jobs, and compensation plans of certain individuals if the business entity files with the federal SEC. Requires the State entity granting the subsidy to publish on the State entities website a compilation of the disclosure reports in a searchable and downloadable format. The legislation limits the applicability to the Department. Failed.

House Bill 916 Economic Development – Community Revitalization and Improvement Zones

Authorizes a county to establish a community revitalization and improvement zone, issue specified bonds for the benefit of the zone, and creates an application process within the Department to designate a zone. Failed.

House Bill 603 Yard Waste and Food Residuals Diversion and Infrastructure Task Force

Establishes the Yard Waste and Food Residuals Diversion and Infrastructure Task Force to identify, evaluate and make recommendations regarding expanding the State's capacity for diversion of food and yard waste from landfills. The Task Force would be comprised of legislators, State agency representatives, and local organizations representing both for profit and non-profit organizations, among others. Failed.

For more information please contact the Department's Office of Policy and Government Affairs at 410-767-6312.

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Department of Business & Economic Development

www.ChooseMaryland.org

Larry Hogan, Governor • Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor • R. Michael Gill, Secretary